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## LEADING THE NEWS

### *Pesticides*

#### **Congress' EPA Budget Wrangling Could Hit Pesticide Program**

Congress is expected to breeze through the reauthorization of a key law on registering pesticides for use this year....

## NEWS

### *Air Pollution*

#### **Beijing 'Environmental Police' to Target Heavy Air Polluters**

As the latest wave of smog enveloped the Chinese capital, Beijing announced the formation of a new police unit to crack down on polluters....

### *Air Pollution*

#### **Beijing Imposes Weekday Ban on Older Cars**

Beijing announced a weekday ban on older, heavily polluting passenger cars from driving within about a 10-mile radius of the city center....

### *Air Pollution*

#### **VW Judge Clears U.S. Drivers' \$1 Billion Deal on Diesel Cheating**

Volkswagen AG won a U.S. judge's preliminary sign-off on its \$1 billion settlement with about 78,000 drivers of premium diesel Audis, VWs and Porsches over the carmaker's emissions-cheating scandal....

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### *Asbestos*

#### **Asbestos Trust Disclosure Bill Heads to House Floor**

Asbestos compensation trusts would have to disclose information about claimants if a bill approved Feb. 15 by the House Judiciary Committee becomes law. ...

### *Emissions Trading*

#### **EU Lawmakers Back Moves to Tighten Emissions Trading System**

The European Union's Emissions Trading System would be tightened after 2020 to reduce a huge surplus of carbon permits that have suppressed EU carbon prices, under a reform European Parliament lawmakers provisionally approved Feb....

### *Endangered Species*

#### **Senators Proceed With Caution on Amending Wildlife Protections**

No consensus for amending the Endangered Species Act emerged after witnesses at a Senate hearing Feb. 15 urged caution in updating the law, reflecting an awareness of how difficult it is to approach the subject. ...

### *Energy*

#### **BP Contractor Loses Defamation Claim Against Bloggers**

A BP consultant hired to assess the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill can't proceed with a defamation suit against a pair of environmental advocates, the Massachusetts high court ruled (*Cardno ChemRisk, LLC v. Foytlin*, 2017...

### *Energy*

#### **China Said to Mull Resuming Coal Output Curbs for Six Months**

China, the world's biggest producer and consumer of coal, is considering reinstating output restrictions to avoid the return of a glut after easing limits during winter. Shares in the country's coal miners jumped along with...

### *Energy*

#### **Entergy Shops More Nuclear Power Plants That It Plans to Close**

Entergy Corp. wants to sell more of its nuclear power plants that are scheduled to close and leave the job of dismantling the reactors to someone else....

### *Energy*

#### **House GOP to Consider Energy Loan Changes After Perry Approval**

An age-old debate over the merits of federal intervention in the marketplace took center stage in a Feb. 15 hearing on the future of the Energy Department's program to issue loans for energy innovation. ...

### *EPA*

#### **EPA Girds for Pruitt Arrival as Democrats Continue to Fight**

Scott Pruitt may take the reins of the Environmental Protection Agency Feb. 17, the agency's acting administrator Catherine McCabe told colleagues in a video posted publicly. ...

#### *Fuel Efficiency*

##### **Carmakers' Plea for Fuel Economy Review Sets Stage for Showdown**

Automakers enjoying lucrative sales of trucks and sport utility vehicles are hoping President Donald Trump makes good on his vows to deregulate. Environmental groups are saying fuel efficiency standards won't be watered down without...

#### *International Climate*

##### **Germany Prepares for Climate Clash With Tillerson at G-20 Talks**

Germany fixed climate change as a key topic for foreign ministers from the Group of 20 nations meeting Feb. 16, according to an official in Berlin, setting up for a clash with President Donald Trump's lead Cabinet officer on the issue....

#### *Mergers and Acquisitions*

##### **Bayer, Syngenta Clash With EU Over Bees Amid M&A Charm Offensive**

Bayer AG and Syngenta AG, two of the agrichemical giants trying to win the European Commission's blessing for deals reshaping the global industry, clashed with the EU over bans on insecticides that regulators blame for killing honeybees....

#### *Mining*

##### **Alaska Mine Deemed 'Worthless' in Investment Report**

The proposed Alaska Pebble Mine is being barraged by an investment report concluding that the project is economically "worthless."...

#### *Oil & Gas*

##### **Alberta Suspends Major Oil, Gas Producer Lexin Resources**

Alberta suspended all production Feb. 15 by oil and gas producer Lexin Resources Ltd. from its 1,600 sites across the Canadian province because of failure to comply with environmental regulations....

#### *Oil & Gas*

##### **What Oil Crisis? Arctic Drilling Off Norway Set for Record**

Explorers look set to drill a record number of wells in Norway's Arctic waters this year, undeterred by oil prices apparently stuck below \$60 a barrel....

#### *PCBs*

##### **Setback for Monsanto in PCB River Pollution Case**

Monsanto may not proceed with a cost recovery countersuit against Spokane, Wash., in litigation over PCB contamination in the Spokane River, the Eastern District of Washington ruled Feb. 14 (City of Spokane v. Monsanto Co., 2017 BL 44392,...

#### *Pesticides*

##### **Canada to Ban Imports of Pesticides Ordered Online**

Canada plans to ban imports of pesticides ordered online as part of a crackdown on individuals procuring pesticides that are not officially registered for use in the country....

#### *Pesticides*

##### **EU Proposes to Break Deadlocks on Pesticides, GMO Issues**

The European Commission hopes to break deadlocks around high-profile issues like the use of the popular herbicide glyphosate, and authorizations of genetically engineered crops by revising the European Union's process for approving...

#### *Renewable Energy*

##### **Sinopec to Create 20 Geothermal Cities by 2020, China Daily Says**

China Petrochemical Corp. is coming up with a plan to create 20 smog-free cities in four years by replacing coal with geothermal energy to generate heat, China Daily reported....

#### *Renewable Energy*

##### **U.S. Solar Surged 95% to Become Largest Source of New Energy**

Solar developers installed a record 14.6 gigawatts in the U.S. last year, almost double the total from 2015 and enough to make photovoltaic panels the largest source of new electric capacity for the first time....

#### *Superfund*

##### **Contaminated Federal Sites Cost \$447B in Liability, Watchdog Says**

The government's own contaminated sites will need help from agencies and Congress to get cleaned up, a watchdog said Feb. 15....

#### *Toxic Substances*

##### **EU Finalizes Flame Retardant Prohibition**

The widely used brominated flame retardant decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE) would be largely prohibited in the European Union after March 2, 2019, under a regulation published in the bloc's Official Journal....

#### *Trade*

##### **India Seeks WTO Inquiry Into U.S. Renewables Sector**

Next week India will ask the World Trade Organization to investigate a series of U.S. subsidies and requirements in the renewable energy sector that New Delhi said violates international trade rules. ...

## **SPECIAL REPORT**

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#### *Air Pollution*

##### **Pruitt Could Alter Air Science Advisory Panel Direction at EPA**

A panel of science advisers whose recommendations underpin some of the EPA's most contentious air pollution regulations is

likely to see some changes under the Trump administration, including the possible appointment of scientists...

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